

**"And Then He Choked Me: Understanding and Investigating Strangulation"**

*Allison Turkel*

*The following is a summary compiled by The Advocates for Human Rights of the article. To read the full article, "And Then He Choked Me: Understanding and Investigating Strangulation" by Allison Turkel, please visit the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse's Update, available at [http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update\\_vol\\_20\\_no\\_8\\_2007.pdf](http://www.ndaa.org/publications/newsletters/update_vol_20_no_8_2007.pdf).*

Strangulation continues to be a serious threat to the lives of women and children. In fact, strangulation often foreshadows the escalation of violence and even homicidal intent. Understanding, investigating, and preventing strangulation is complicated by the fact that legal standards are changing, investigations are often inadequate, and prevention is hampered by minimization of strangulation. Strangulation accounts for ten percent of violent deaths in the United States according to a 2001 study published in the Journal of Emergency Medicine. From 1989 to 2005 in Minnesota, thirteen percent of all women murdered by an intimate partner were strangled to death and seventeen percent of all children murdered by a family member were strangled to death according to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women's 2005 Special Femicide Report. In her recent article "*And Then He Choked Me:*" *Understanding and Investigating Strangulation*," Allison Turkel, senior attorney and Chief of Training for the National District Attorneys Association, discusses the dangers associated with strangulation, investigating strangulation, the state of the law related to strangulation, and the role of prevention in enforcement and prosecution of strangulation.

*Compiled from: ['And Then He Choked Me:' Understanding and Investigating Strangulation](#), Allison Turkel, [National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, National District Attorneys Association](#), 2007.*